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# **Role of Public Libraries for the Enhancement of Socio-Economic Conditions of Shershabadia Community at Chachanda and Loharpur Mouza, Samsorganj Block in Murshidabad District.**

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## **Abstract**

Public libraries play a crucial role in promoting the rural community development of rural areas. Information needs of rural library users (incredibly underdeveloped community people with lower income groups) are different from other library users. To review their need, a survey has been conducted on Shershabadia community at Chachanda and Loharpur Mouza, Samsorganj block of Murshidabad district. A structured questionnaire is prepared to gather data from different economically behind library users. This study aims to understand the essential community information needs and knowledge-seeking patterns of Samsorganj block, Murshidabad library users. Some case studies even have been incorporated to analyze their condition. The study has clearly shown that it is necessary to form a library in every rural village and make the economically underdeveloped people aware of the necessity and importance of the agricultural library. So, the government should take steps for the proper growth, recruitment, and development of rural public libraries located within the remote areas of West Bengal.

**Keywords:** Public Library; Rural library users; Shershabadia Community; Murshidabad District; West Bengal

## **1. Introduction**

Public libraries play a significant role in local communities in any state or district for economic and social development. It promotes information awareness and knowledge enhancement to the public residents. A library is a place where generally individual comes to avail themselves of information and ideas. Information dissemination through the library is an essential factor for the event of the community. It preserved the range of communities' cultural heritage resources and has become a memory institution. The public library is needed by our society, as it contributes as an information sector and economic development (Santos, 2009). There are many views regarding how the public library

contributes to economic growth. The public library's role is a lifelong learning memory institution (Mackenzie 2000). The role of a library is to provide information about a particular community (Lozano 2002). The Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) countries are reorienting the public library as an information centre contributing to the local economic development (McClure, Robbins & Fraser 2000).

Consistent with the 2011 census, the entire population of West Bengal is 91,276,115; of this, 6,369,183 persons are other backward classes constituting 17% of the state's entire population. The total population of the Samsorganj Community is 284,072. Among which 142,034 are males and 142,038 are females of the state? (Statistical Profile, 2019) consistent with census report 2011, the entire population of Murshidabad district is 70,13,457; of these, 2,337,819 people are backward cast constituting 33.33% of the whole population of the community (District Census Handbook, 2011). The total Shershabadia population of Murshidabad is 36,01,136 approximately (Employment & Backward Class Welfare, Murshidabad Zilla Parishad, 2017). Public libraries try to satisfy the need of the citizens, community, entrepreneurs, small businesses, and institutions. Through this, it helps to achieve the condition of the local rural community.

## **2. The objective of the study**

The objective of the study is as follow:

- To explore the socio-economic conditions of the Shershabadia community of Chachanda and Loharpur Mouza of Samsorganj block within Murshidabad, West Bengal.
- To find out some suggestions for their better improvement, this demonstrates the gratitude to the socio-economic development of the Shershabadia Community.
- To conscious the people of Shershabadia Community at Chachanda and Loharpur Mouza, Samsorganj Block in Murshidabad district to let them know the utility of public library.

## **3. Scope and Coverage**

The scope and the coverage of the study are as follow:

- The scope of the study is to analyses the socio-economic conditions of the people belonging to the Shershabadia community.
- The study is administered within the Chachanda and Loharpur villages of Samsorganj block within Murshidabad, West Bengal.
- The two villages are selected as there is a substantial population of Shershabadia in these two areas, which is required to study.

Because the population isn't that prime, the entire population is studied to urge a transparent and definite picture of the whole community there in the area, apart from the variable subsistence status where only the adult population is studied.

#### **4. Literature review**

The literature review discusses the concept of the research study and gives a clear view of the past research done in these areas. Some of the useful, relevant kinds of literature are discussed chronologically.

In the study, Bandyopadhyay (2008) states West Bengal is India's multi-lingual and multi-cultural state comprising 40 tribes. Due to economic pressure, West Bengal is losing its original cultural heritage. Most of the cultural heritage knowledge is not in written form and are passed down orally. Preserving knowledge has become an influential agenda. The study shows that libraries, NGOs, government, and research institutions contribute to these areas. It discusses the role of knowledge management and the role of librarians and libraries. Chakrabarti et al. (2011) highlighted the socio-economic condition and the traditional information needs in Mech Community at Maa Bhandani hat in Jalpaiguri District. Santos (2009) discusses the public library's role in society as an essential element of economic development adopted in the countries in the Southern Common Market. Mansour (2019) investigate the role of Egyptian rural public libraries. The Egyptian rural public libraries have struggled to be a part of the UN agenda to implement the Sustainable Development Goals. Despite all the challenges, the libraries showed a good respond, though it was an insufficient to achieve the goals. Mallik & Nayek (2018) highlights public libraries play a significant role in developing the rural areas. The information needs of the rural public users are different from the other public library users. The study shows the need for a public library in rural villages or areas and makes the rural people aware of their information needs. The state government of West Bengal should invest more in developing the public libraries located in remote rural areas. Lal (2018) discusses the development of the people of the rural areas through providing the accessibility of information at all levels. The study shows a link between India's rural public library usage, empowerment, and community development.

#### **5. Methodology**

The study adopted a survey method. Primary data are collected through visiting the field. The study is supported by finding relevant literature on Shershabadia and rural public libraries. A structured method like a questionnaire and an unstructured method like observations were included in the study. Through the collected information, the data were analyzed, different tables and charts were created, and the findings of the conclusions were made.

#### **6. Background of Shershabadia Community**

The community belongs to Sunni Muslims. The majority does not belong to any of the four religious' schools of Islam that are predictable. Hanafi, Shafi, Hambali and Maliki. Instead, all the correct calls from all four Imams are followed and are alluded to as Al-Hadith (strict



		21		20	21			16		17	00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>		<b>40</b>		<b>37</b>		<b>34</b>		<b>36</b>		<b>190</b>	
	<b>22.63%</b>		<b>21.05%</b>		<b>19.47%</b>		<b>17.89%</b>		<b>18.94%</b>			
Loharpur		24		28	13		10			13	00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>		<b>46</b>		<b>25</b>		<b>17</b>		<b>33</b>		<b>174</b>	
	<b>30.46%</b>		<b>26.44%</b>		<b>14.37%</b>		<b>9.78%</b>		<b>18.97%</b>			

In comparison to age and sex-wise adult population distribution, it is found that at Chachanda, most of the adult person belongs to the age group of 18 - 27 (22.63 %), and in this group male population is also higher than the female population. The highest adult female population comes under the age group of 18 - 27 and in the age group of 38 - 47 male population is higher than female.

In Loharpur, 30.46% of the adult population comes under the age group of 18 - 27. The male population is higher than other age groups and higher than the female population of that age group. The male population is also higher than females in the age group of 58+ and above. The highest number of the adult female population comes under the age group of 28 - 37.

**Table: 3 Age wise marital status of Chachanda and Loharpur Mouza**

Status	Age Group (Sex wise)											
	18-27		28-37		38-47		48-57		58+		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female		Female		Female		Female	Female	
Married	15	27	24			13		10		7		75
Un-	13	3	6			6				6		31

Married											
Divorce	7	12	7			8				4	38
Widower	3	3	5			3				1	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>37</b>		<b>30</b>		<b>24</b>		<b>18</b>	<b>154</b>

Table 3 provides the information about the marital status of Chachanda and Loharpur Mouza, which reveals that the female married population is higher than the male and male unmarried population is also higher than female. In this Mouza, many male widowers were found.

**Table 4: House pattern of Chachanda and Loharpur Mouza**

Type	Chachanda			Loharpur		
	Asbestos/Tali	Hay Shed	Total	Asbestos/Tali	Hey shed	Total
Brick house	27	0	27 64.29%	28	0	28 42.42%
Hut	0	13	13 30.94%	30	7	37 56.06%
Jhupri	2	0	2 4.76%	0		1 1.52%
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>66</b>

Table 4 highlights that 64.29% are brick houses at Chachanda, but at Loharpur, this ratio became only 42.42%. Many brick houses are found at Chachanda, whereas the percentage of jhupri is higher at Chachanda than Loharpur.

Therefore, it is easily assumed that between the said two mouzas, the socio-economic condition of Chachanda is not well developed as Loharpur because, at Chachanda, 4.76% of house type is jhupri, wherein Loharpur, 1.52% is a hut.

**Table 5: the household size of Chachanda and Loharpur Mouza**

Number of Members	Chachanda	Loharpur
	Number of families (%)	Number of families (%)
1-2	28 33.33%	32 24.24%
3-4	30 35.71%	44 33.33%
5-6	24 28.57%	44 33.33%
7+	2 2.38%	12 9.09%
<b>Total</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>132</b>

Table 5 represents the information about household size at Chachanda and Loharpur. At Chachanda, 33.33% of families have one or two members, 35.71% of families have three or four members, 28.57% of families have five or six members, and only 2.38% of families have seven or more than seven members.

At Loharpur, 33.33% of families have between three to six members, 24.24% of families have one or two members, and 9.09% of families have seven or more than seven members. The number of big families having seven or more than seven members is much higher at Chachanda than at Loharpur. At Chachanda, most of the families have three or four members.

**Table 6: Literate and Illiterate status of Chachanda and Loharpur Mouza**



<b>Mouza</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Total Adult</b>	<b>Illiterate</b>	<b>Literate</b>
Chachanda	Male	90	24 26.67%	66 73.33%
	Female	84	46 54.76%	38 45.24%
Loharpur	Male	44	12 27.27%	32 72.73%
	Female	46	7 15.22%	39 84.78%

Table 6 represents the educational status of the adult population of Chachanda and Loharpur Mouza. In comparison to both Mouza, it is identified that the education rate is much higher at Chachanda than at Loharpur. At Chachanda male literacy rate is higher than the female. But at Loharpur female literacy rate is higher than male.

**Table 7: Occupational status**

<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Chachanda</b>	<b>Loharpur</b>
Agricultural day labour	30 17.24%	25 25%
Non-agricultural day labour (Beedi)	110 63.22%	66 66%
Forest produce collection and sell	2 1.15%	6 6%
Hand craft	4 2.30%	2 2%
Old age pension holder	0 0%	0 0%
Widow pension holder	2	1

	1.15%	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>100</b>
	<b>85.06%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 7 expresses information about the occupational status of both mouzas. At Chachanda, 63.22% of people earn money from different sources. Many people are associated with Non-agricultural, especially Beedi work, and the second-largest income source is Agricultural labor. They mainly make Beedi, daily labour, security guard, weaving, knitting, carpenter, bamboo sculptures, basket, and other materials.

At Loharpur, the earning population is 66%, and most people engage in Non-agricultural work. Especially at Loharpur, 25% of people earn money from Agricultural work.

Many people who belong to the Shershabadia community of Chachanda and Loharpur are engaged in their traditional work, which is Non-agricultural work.

**Table 8: Economic asset of the household of Chachanda and Loharpur Mouza**

<b>Economic Asset</b>	<b>Chachanda</b>	<b>Loharpur</b>
House	82	66
	41.62%	37.71%
Cycle	40	45
	20.30%	25.71%
Bike	11	10
	5.58%	5.71%
Tube well	10	8
	5.07%	4.57%
Electricity	20	15
	10.15%	8.57%
Television	13	11
	6.59%	6.28%

Cow/Buffalo	9	9
	4.56%	5.14%
Bird	4	3
	2.03%	1.71%
Goat	8	8
	4.06%	4.57%

From table 8, it is found that the household of both Mouza has nearly identical economic assets. At Chachanda, 20.30 % of households have a cycle, and in Loharpur, it is 25.71 %. 10.15% of households use electricity at Chachanda, but at Loharpur, it is only 8.57%. A vast difference was found Between Chachanda and Loharpur compared to some economic assets like electricity, television, cow/buffalo, and birds. It proves that the condition of the Loharpur Shershabadia population is behind Chachanda.

#### **8. Figure of Public Libraries**

- a) The agricultural library gives community people participatory opportunities and offers you service within side the methods the local community prefers.
- b) Rural public libraries keep manner of existence and modify in the course of a rural community thru gaining access to and acquiring new facts, skills, and ethics. From the begin to the end of these benefits, humans will later increase and share empowerment and first rate competencies internal their community.
- c) They encourage eternal training among character village community people.
- d) To encourage community people to read, use books, journals, magazines, newspapers, facts, database, on line have a study materials, and know-how access, and experience all materials within side the library for training, research, and entertainment.
- e) To assist a rural community in comprehending the country's social, political, and monetary sports activities and nation-building assiduity.

#### **9. Community Information Needs**

Information is ubiquitous, but it desires to variety from one to a numerous. From the above have a study, it's far represented that facts desires for a specific community like Shershabadia are like agriculture and correlated facts, training-related queries, occupation-related news, physical scenario issues, self-employment programs, the doubt associated

with farming, monetary assist programs, government programs, jail aids, welfare programs, accommodation-related issues, horticulture, social, local, and political facts, etc.

#### **10. Community facts is frequently supplied from the overall public library**

The following statistics services are frequently given from the general public library as regards to agriculture and related know to how training-related advertisement, job-related strategy, the internet, website, and mobileular services, drink facility, blood contribution, and health camps, self-help enterprise programs, monetary assist programs, facts concerning government programs, jail aids facts, welfare programs of numerous NGOs, Local and political news, client facts, atmosphere-related facts etc.

#### **11. Problems to deliver for the general public library**

The principal setback of the general public library to offer network information offerings is flows:

- a) Insufficient association and infrastructure
- b) Crisis of employees
- c) Deficiency of librarian
- d) Need of compilation of lots facts
- e) Require of funds
- f) Lack of mobile, net and internet site offerings
- g) Crisis of rest room and water clear out facility etc.

#### **12. Raised version for the public library**

**Government or organizations are regularly grouped into three predominant models:**

##### **Exogenous improvement version:**

Include the deployment of superficially supplied educated control to prepare, execute, and investigate improvement programs.

##### **Endogenous improvement version:**

A route with the aid of using which residing in village improvement is transferred into selected vicinity and fairly ravished on a network.

### **Mixed improvement version:**

Comprise the interface in the nearby and outside additives in the guideline of thumb of the occasion progression.

"This blended improvement technique is said to be the most effective technique for network improvement. It permits many nearby elements, like nearby identity, nearby cultures, and consequently the herbal environment, to be a neighborhood of the occasion attempt and process" (Terluin and Post, 2001).

"The Malaysian authorities has organized efforts to stimulate country wide improvement via three principal orientations: output goals, namely, to deliver bodily assistance; cultural goals, which focus on network improvement with the aid of using growing nearby participation at their very own pace; and blended output cultural goals, which contain an try and make a substitute culture, to extrude the financial or social company or small elements of it, and to deliver a few provider or amenity" (Isa, 2010).

### **13. Exhortation**

- i) Assuring number one schooling to the complete populace of the Shershabadia network.
- ii) Growing specific fitness programs and growing essential fitness offerings via the improved shipping to conflict with vast sicknesses not unusual place in those underdeveloped regions.
- iii) Initiation unique schemes for his or her endurance, safety, and every person round improvement.
- iv) Propagation of provider-cum-earnings introduction overall performance throughout National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC).
- v) Spreading training and schooling to be find out human beings within side the network to educate them for numerous aggressive examinations.
- vi) Fixing libraries and know-how in the regions to supply the proper facts on the proper time.
- vii) The authorities should pursue a numerous improvement technique for the right boom and improvement of use public libraries located in the remote vicinity of West Bengal.

### **State authorities' rules concerning the general public library**

The authorities has accomplished or, to a positive volume trying to hire a few strategies regarding the general public library. These are like

### **Digitization and Automation of public libraries**

C-DAC, Kolkata (an self reliant frame created with the aid of using Govt. of India) is about to mechanize the not unusual place public libraries in several levels to address those desires and to distribute facts to the far off peoples of West Bengal.

### **Library Network**

Public libraries might be joined via the net in a couple of durations to make sure right networking the various public libraries of West Bengal.

### **Foundation of Women's Libraries**

The authorities of West Bengal is getting to user in women's libraries in a few districts of West Bengal to make bigger the analyzing conduct among ladies of our society and appeal to them to the library. These libraries are going to be dealing with the aid of using the ladies' professionals.

### **Community library cum facts centre's**

Community library cum facts centres is to be acknowledged with the aid of using the Gram Panchayats below the network project. Housing is to receive unfastened from cost.

### **14. Epilogue:**

In a library context, we terminate that network improvement manner creation hyperlinks with human beings. The network improvement software is commonly finished throughout the following stepladder like Participation, constructing interplay with human beings with the aid of using for the reason that front to modern-day sources and technology, and interact network participants to participate in library-associated sports cause, perceive facts needs and contributing to the stretched run of the network, deciding, to make the right selection on the proper time to help the network, the librarian himself ought to take the route role. They need to manual from the front and scrutinize to hook up with the network.

Now, if we see the situations of the general public libraries of West Bengal, the state of affairs isn't always good. Approximately 3000 public libraries do now no longer have library people for a while. Because of the dearth of people, maximum of the general public

libraries have been closed. The West Bengal authorities agreed to apply 383 librarians and 500 library people on a settlement foundation for the primary phase. Within the second, one phase, they may recruit one thousand library people. However, the amount is too much less approximately demand. But the government may want to understand the demand for the librarian to store plenty of the general public libraries of the state. So, it might a nice signal from the cause of view of the vast library. The authorities are taking a few steps for the occasion of the general library.

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